United Nations A/AC.259/L.12

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
7 April 2011

Original: English

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Twelfth meeting
20-24 June 2011

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 54/33, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will develop, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods by resolutions 57/141 and 60/30, and for additional two-year periods by resolutions 63/111 and 65/37.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and of an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 9 March 2011, the co-Chairs, Don MacKay (New Zealand) and Milan Jaya Meetarbhan (Mauritius), developed a format for the discussions at the twelfth meeting of the Consultative Process (see annex I) and are proposing a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider, in particular by reference to the addendum to the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (to be issued as A/66/70/Add.1).

4. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

Please recycle

Annex I

Format for the twelfth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the twelfth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 54/33. The discussion panel will also be open to participation by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.[a]

3. Within the constraints of the available accommodation, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. The two co-Chairs will propose a provisional agenda setting out a proposed programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The provisional agenda will take into account paragraphs 223, 225 and 231 of General Assembly resolution 65/37. The Consultative Process at its twelfth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable.

Discussion panel

5. In paragraph 231 of its resolution 65/37, the General Assembly decided that the Consultative Process at its twelfth meeting would focus its discussions on contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges. On the basis of consultations with delegations, the two co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the topic to be discussed by the discussion panel at the twelfth meeting. The co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant questions.

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[a] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Outcome of the twelfth meeting

6. The outcome of the meeting will consist of the co-Chairs' summary of the issues and ideas raised during the plenary sessions, including with respect to devising a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists, so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly. The summary will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel on the topic of focus. It should be recalled, however, that the General Assembly has already decided on the topic of focus of the thirteenth meeting of the Consultative Process, as reflected in resolution 65/37. The outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Consultative Process will also include issues that could benefit from attention in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, with due regard to General Assembly resolution 54/33. In accordance with past practice, the outcome will also include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the outcome document will be submitted at the meeting of the Consultative Process. The two co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the General Assembly.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Monday, 20 June 2011 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the twelfth meeting

1. Patricia O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel, and Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, or their designated representatives, will open the proceedings on behalf of the Secretary-General.

2. The co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda for the twelfth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; agenda items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that during the general exchange of views delegations may wish to address in particular the topic of the twelfth meeting, "Contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges".

5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel
Contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges

6. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. For each segment, it is proposed to commence with panel presentations followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

[a] All meetings will commence promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Segment 1
Sustainable development, oceans and the law of the sea

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Tuesday, 21 June 2011 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 2
Overview of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development that pertain to ocean affairs

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 2 (*continued*)
Overview of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development that pertain to ocean affairs

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Wednesday, 22 June 2011 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 3
New and emerging challenges for the sustainable development and use of oceans and seas

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 4
The road to Rio+20 and beyond

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Thursday, 23 June 2011 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

7. The Coordinator of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (UN-Oceans), the inter-agency mechanism for cooperation and coordination, will be invited to provide information on its activities.

Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

8. The Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 225 of resolution 65/37 "that the Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea". Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

9. The Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the co-Chairs on the basis of part C of the reports on the work of the Consultative Process from its fourth to eleventh meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and Corr.1, A/64/131 and A/65/164). The co-Chairs will inform the Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the twelfth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly.

3-6 p.m.[a]

[*Reserved*]

Friday, 24 June 2011 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Third plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting

10. The Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the draft format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome of the meeting will consist of the co-Chairs' summary of the issues and ideas raised during the plenary sessions, including with respect to devising a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists, so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly, and of the issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel on the topic of focus. The outcome of the meeting of the Consultative Process will include issues that could benefit from attention in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, with due regard to General Assembly resolution 54/33.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges"

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session (to be issued as A/66/70/Add.1) provides background information for the discussion panel on the topic "Contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges". The information provided in the report should not be considered to limit the range of possible areas for discussion, but is intended to provide a basis for an informed dialogue.

2. In particular, the report provides information on the essential role of oceans and seas for sustainable development, as emphasized in the outcomes of major summits on sustainable development, such as chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The report also highlights the progress achieved in the implementation of those outcomes, featuring institutional and policy developments, as well as achievements on a sectoral basis. It contains information on cooperation initiatives at the international and regional levels to address the challenges specific to the sustainable development of small island developing States. The report further describes remaining gaps as well as new and emerging challenges to the sustainable development of oceans and seas.

Discussion panel segments

3. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 65/37, recognized the role of the Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. It also recognized "the primary role of the Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders, coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development".

4. In considering the topic of focus of the twelfth meeting of the Consultative Process, it is proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) Sustainable development, oceans and the law of the sea

5. This panel segment could focus on the key outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development as they relate to oceans and seas, as well as consider outcomes of other relevant processes and negotiations as they relate to oceans and seas from a sustainable development perspective. It could also highlight the linkages between the oceans and the law of the sea and the promotion of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection.

(b) Overview of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development

6. This panel segment could provide an overview of the progress achieved to date in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and the remaining gaps. In particular, it could highlight progress and remaining gaps in sectors such as sustainable fisheries, control of marine pollution, capacity-building, conservation and management of the oceans, and marine science and transfer of marine technology, as addressed under chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It could also highlight specific developments in relation to small island developing States.

(c) New and emerging challenges for the sustainable development and use of oceans and seas

7. This panel segment could provide various perspectives on new and emerging challenges for the sustainable development and use of oceans and seas, including the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and cross-cutting issues such as capacity-building and transfer of technology. It could also draw attention to some emerging issues affecting the marine environment and its sustainable use, such as marine debris; conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, including marine genetic resources; coral reef management and the use of new technologies at sea; and the integrated management of oceans and seas.

(d) The road to Rio+20 and beyond

8. This panel segment would provide an opportunity to consider how to enhance potential synergies between the discussions on oceans and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and those on sustainable development in the light of the outcome of the tenth meeting of the Consultative Process, including through the promotion of coordination and cooperation with the view to making a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, and to the review of the oceans by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2014. It could also discuss concrete steps that could be taken to ensure that oceans and seas are central to the sustainable development agenda at the global, regional and national levels.